



■ Public Affairs Excellence ■



To the President of the European Parliament
To the President of the European Commission
To the President in Office of the Council

8 February 2008

Dear Sirs,

Our three organisations represent public affairs practitioners in companies, trade associations, law firms, NGOs and consultancies. We work with the institutions of the European Union on a daily basis. We are united in wishing to promote and uphold professional standards in European public affairs. We welcome the recognition by your institutions that public affairs practitioners provide valuable perspective to EU decision makers.

In the interests of good governance, and to encourage the trust and credibility on which public affairs depends, we welcome the initiative taken by the European Commission to introduce more transparency into public affairs activities through codes of conduct and a registration system.

To be effective we believe that there should be a single register of interest representations for all EU institutions. It should be simple, easy to access and update and immediately applicable.

We are concerned that the varying proposals which are currently being debated separately by your institutions will, if implemented in parallel, create confusion and complexity which will fail to provide the required transparency. In addition, the potential consequences of some of the proposals on the table have not been given enough consideration.

We believe that a single system is required with a clear legal base and proper impact assessment. We urge you to reach an Inter Institutional Agreement as recommended recently by the legal advisers of the European Parliament.

Our three organisations remain committed to working with your institutions to create an open and credible working environment for public affairs in the EU.

Yours faithfully,

Erik Jonnaert
Chairman
ECPA

Jose Lalloum
Chairman
EPACA

Lyn Trytsman-Gray
President
SEAP